

LOCKED IN HIS VAULT.

Treasurer Storm of Yavapai is Robbed of \$15,300. Bound and Gagged in his Office Election Day.

When Miss Mattie Storm, daughter of County Treasurer J. P. Storm opened the door of the treasurer's office on Wednesday morning about 9:30 o'clock, a little dog belonging to her father bounded gleefully at her from the inside of the room.

Mr. Storm had failed to report at home during the night after election but this circumstance had not occasioned particular apprehension on the part of his family on account of the excitement usually accompanying election times, and the proneness of politicians to keep late hours.

When the daughter however discovered that the little dog, which was a pet of her father had been a prisoner all night, in his office she immediately became alarmed and remarked to a person near her that she believed something had happened to her father.

She immediately went to the door of the vault and turned the combination and to her great astonishment found her father seated on a pile of books, bound and gagged with pieces of heavy wire.

The gag was made of a white handkerchief over which was a piece of wire which extended around his face and neck and the ends of which were securely twisted together at the back of his head.

His hands were also bound behind his back with a similar piece of wire although his feet were free.

Mr. Storm was at once released and told the following story as to how he came to be in this position:

"I was sitting in the office about 4:30 yesterday afternoon reading a paper. I had just come from the polling booth. Suddenly I heard a voice saying, 'Throw up your hands.' Turning around I saw two men standing behind me, one pointing a big pistol at me. I threw up my hands, and then the man told me to go inside the vault, which was open. I walked in, keeping my back to the robbers. When inside they gagged me with my own handkerchief, and then tied my hands. Then they went to work, ransacking the safe and its contents. There were several sacks containing about \$1,000 each in the vault. I think they got about \$9,000 or \$10,000. Then I was left in the room and the door of the vault closed. I guess the men then walked off. I began to kick and stamp to attract some attention. I waited hour after hour all night, and until late today before anyone came.

"That is all I can tell about it. One of the men seemed to be tall and the other shorter. I did not see the one behind very well, as he was behind the front one, the one with the gun. The one I saw good had a white handkerchief around his face from his eyes down."

The announcement that the county treasurer had been gagged and bound and the treasury robbed created quite a sensation on the streets and formed the principal topic of conversation during the day, shoving politics into the background for the time.

Little groups of citizens could be seen on the street corners during the day in animated conversation, the subject being this sensational robbery.

The sheriff's office was immediately notified and Undersheriff Carter was the first one to enter the office after the discovery was made, but not a single clew was obtained upon which to hang a theory as to the robbery or the perpetrators of it and the officers

pere as much in the dark as Mr. Storm was when in the sealed vault.

The greatest surprise was manifested that he came out of the vault alive after an incarceration there of seventeen hours with a gag in his mouth.

A short time after being discovered he accompanied the officers to the depot on an observation tour, and to discover if any suspicious parties attempted to leave.

Some time after the report of the robbery had gained circulation a committee of Mr. Storm's bondsmen took charge of the office, which was kept locked a greater part of the day.

District Attorney Clark was also called into consultation with them, but what turn their consultation took was not given out. Mr. Storm first gave out the amount taken as between \$9,000 and \$10,000. A later examination indicated that it amounted to \$15,300, but later still a number of checks were found, which reduced the amount to \$10,000 and Deputy Treasurer Ed S. Wright informed a Journal-Miner representative late last evening that these figures were correct as nearly as he could compute them.

A party who was in the treasurer's office a short time before the hour named when the robbery took place said Mr. Storm was sitting in his office and a tray containing money was on a table there.

This tray and its contents were found this morning behind the door of the vault.

Mr. Wright stated yesterday that the time lock on the safe was still running for some time after he arrived there. It is usually wound up to run seventeen hours, being closed at 4 o'clock p. m. each day, and is set to run till 9 o'clock a. m., the usual time of opening it.

Mr. Storm's bondsmen are John Lawler, J. J. Hawkins, J. L. Munds, J. I. Gardner, E. A. Kastner, P. L. Kastner, J. W. Stewart, Dennis A. Burke, James O'Connell, B. M. Belcher, J. H. Smith, J. W. Wilson, A. S. Head, M. J. Hiebey, R. H. Burmister, Robert Brow, B. H. Smith and A. A. Johns. Each of the bondsmen bualified in the sum of \$5,000, except E. A. Kastner, who is only on the band for \$3,000, making the total amount of his bond \$88,000.

Under the law the bondsmen are responsible to the county for the amount of loss sustained by it. Journal-Miner!

A Big Cattle Deal.

On Monday of this week another large cattle deal took place here by which Sheriff James A. Johnson purchased of Dr. P. A. Melick, a ranch at Maine, the Bow-B ranch, better known as the old Bennett place, and the Bar-Cross ranch, Tom Wagner's old headquarters, down on the rim, and all the cattle and opportunities there. We are not at liberty to state the amount involved in the transaction, but may say that it runs well up into the five figures.

The country around the Bar-Cross ranch is an ideal grazing section, with good water supply already developed and many further opportunities. Mr. Johnson recently embarked in the business out from Flagstaff on a small scale, and this step is more in the right line. Jim knows the business and we predict for him unqualified success.

Herb Yoder, who was connected with Dr. Melick in the business, will remain at the ranch for the next few weeks until the new owner has things in good running order.—Williams News.

Chamberlain's stomach and liver tablets are becoming a favorite for stomach troubles and constipation. For sale by all druggists.

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